



Cogswell Building 1400 Broadway Helena MT 59620

## WIC PROGRAM

*Building a Healthy Montana  
Promoting & Supporting  
Breastfeeding*

### MEMORANDUM

TO: WIC State Staff, Regional WIC Directors

FROM: Joan Bowsher

DATE: December 10, 2009 9am – 11am

SUBJECT: Conference Call

ATTENDEES: Joan Bowsher, Chris Fogelman, Trish Kurek, Kim Mondy, Carrie Reynolds, Linda Stallings, Leah Steinle, Lynn Van Aken, Mark Walker, Bobbi Walker

**Broadwater:** Dianna Hall; **Cascade:** Carol Keaster; **Custer:** Vicky Tusler; **Deer Lodge:** Linda Best, Joann Proxell, Erin Dobrinen; **Fergus:** Jane Timpano, Shirley Ernst; **Flathead:** Jeannine Lund; **Gallatin:** Darcy Hunter; **Hill:** Tessa Bailey, Trinity Raymond; **Lake:** Patte Doran, Savanna Bell; **Lincoln:** Linda Wagner; **Missoula:** Mary Pittaway, Arwyn WeLander; **Ravalli:** Jackie Cenis, Margaret Reardon, Tessa Messerman; **RiverStone:** Gayle Espeseth; **Sanders:** Karen Dwyer; **Sheridan:** Susan Tefre, Joan Eldridge; **Silver Bow:** Julia Coyne, Lori Stenson, Danielle Stevenson; **Teton:** Karen Dobson, Diane Kalanick, Angel Johnson; **Valley:** Julie Lawson; **No. Cheyenne:** Deb Fix; **Blackfeet:** Kim Schildt; **Ft. Belknap:** Barb Skoyen

### AGENDA

#### Review of Schedule for Training and Rollout of M-SPIRIT

Joan announced that rollout of M-SPIRIT and the New Food Package took place on Nov 30<sup>th</sup>. Non-Pilot Trainings will be the weeks of Jan 4–8 and Jan 11–15, 2010 in Helena and Billings. Leah is in the process of finding a larger place for the Billings training. Please contact her if you're not sure which location you will attend. The new system will be live on Jan 19, 2010 in all clinics.

### **Questions and Update on Food Package and M-SPIRIT**

Mark announced that M-SPIRIT Pilot went well. The phones were busy and some issues came up, but we are resolving those. Mark assured everyone that ITSD will have internet hookups done in time for rollout.

A few agencies mentioned that it takes a while to schedule participants. Bobbi informed everyone that to speed up scheduling, click on "Update Group Demographics". This should be utilized when changing addresses as long as the participants are of the same household and have the exact same address.

Joan again stressed to schedule *very lightly* for the first week of rollout. Some agencies followed this advice and found it very helpful.

Retail Update – Carrie asked everyone to please fax the LARC assurance plan training forms by December 15<sup>th</sup>. When issuing the new benefits, be sure to give out the new yellow ID packets. The tag line for transition benefits has been changed to "Use Yellow Food List", due to the confusion it has been causing at check out.

There have been some availability issues with distributors regarding the 64-oz. bottle of juice and bread. If bread is not available, participant can receive rice or tortillas. Apple cider is not WIC approved.

Benefits need to be redeemed before midnight of the day they expire.

On Tuesday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, there will be two "How's It Going?" retailer conference calls. These are open to LARCS and local agency personnel. Details will be in Monday's Newsletter.

Outreach Reports are needed from Custer and Northern Cheyenne WIC programs. Please e-mail those to me before the end of December.

### **Montana WIC Rebranding – Update and Request for Volunteers**

Joan announced that we received an Infrastructure Grant last year to rebrand WIC.

Carrie - This project is to create a new logo and design for our documents as well as participant and retail booklets. We would like to set up a committee to review the documents for content and ease of use. This will be done through several conference calls beginning in February and ending in August. Please e-mail Carrie if you would like to volunteer for the committee.

Note from Kim: Whole milk may not be issued to women or children (age two and over) unless it is being issued with a medical formula and is requested by the health care provider. Participants, age two and older, who require additional calories, should be referred to their registered dietician.

Goat milk must also be issued in the correct fat content for the participant. Local agency staff reported that low-fat goat milk was found at Rosaur's in Missoula and Wal-Mart in Havre.

Note from Trish: You will be receiving a form to destroy your old blue check stock. These cannot be used as scratch paper. Details will be in Monday's Newsletter.

### **Announcement of New Breastfeeding Peer Counselor Programs**

Chris announced that we received increased funding for this program. We accepted applications from those of you who were interested in starting a program. So far, Gallatin, Flathead, and RiverStone programs have been approved. Joan and I will be speaking with Northern Cheyenne next week. Lewis and Clark will apply next year. Butte's application will be held until next year because staffing is tight now.

Vicky Tusler asked for a count of those who will be attending the MAWA luncheon. MAWA information can be sent to Joan or Carrie to be included in an upcoming Newsletter.

Joan announced that the next conference call will be on February 4<sup>th</sup>. Monday's Newsletter will include the 2010 schedule for these calls. It will also include dates for the Spring Public Health Conference in Bozeman.